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Governor

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CAROL A. HERRMANN, MPH
Commissioner

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Please read this notice to find out about important changes to your Medicaid drug benefit!

Our records show that you currently have Medicare and Medicaid, and Medicaid now pays for your prescription drugs.

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare will pay for your drugs instead of Medicaid. This new Medicare benefit is the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Medicare Part D) and is offered to all people on Medicare. Medicaid will stop paying for any drugs covered by the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit after December 31, 2005. This change in Federal law requires Medicare to pay for your drugs instead of Medicaid; therefore, requests for appeals to Medicaid on this matter will not be granted by Medicaid.

Here is what you need to know:

- Beginning January 1, 2006, you may have to pay a small co-payment for your medicines.
- Medicare will help pay the cost of most of your Medicare prescription drugs. To get Medicare prescription drug coverage, you'll need to choose and join a Medicare drug plan.
- You will soon be receiving information about companies that provide Medicare coverage of drugs. You can enroll in one of these plans starting November 15, 2005. Call the company offering the plan you want to enroll in. If you don't enroll in the plan you want by December 31, 2005, Medicare will enroll you in a plan in your area to make sure you do not miss a day of coverage. You can change to another plan at any time.
- You cannot choose to have Medicaid continue to pay for all of your medicine instead of Medicare.
- There are some drugs that will not be covered by Medicare. Medicaid will continue to pay for some drugs not covered by the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit. Some examples of the drugs that Medicaid will continue to cover are phenobarbital, diazepam and some of the over-the-counter drugs such as aspirin and some cough and cold medicines.
- Medicaid will continue to pay for your other health care costs as before. **You will not lose your Medicaid.**

Your "Medicare & You 2006" handbook will tell you about this new Medicare program. It will tell you how Medicare will pay for your drug costs and what you need to do to choose a Medicare drug plan.

If you have any questions regarding the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, contact the Department of Senior Services at **1-800-243-5463** or Medicare at **1-800-633-4227**. If you have questions about your Medicaid you may contact our Customer Service Unit at 1-800-362-1504.

Recipient Notice 05-04

Our Mission - to provide an efficient and effective system of financing health care for our beneficiaries.